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THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Status of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti

1. As reported by the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH), the Mission's observers faced increasingly threatening behaviour from members of the Forces Armées d'Haïti (FAD'H) and their attachés (civilian auxiliaries) in the first part of October (see A/48/532/Add.1, para. 25). Following the incidents which, on 11 October 1993, prevented the deployment of a contingent of the military component of The United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) arriving on board the United States Navy vessel the Harlan County, two meetings of the Security Management Team, chaired by my Special Representative, who is also the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, were held in Port-au-Prince on 14 and 15 October 1993.

2. On 14 October 1993, upon the advice of the Security Management Team, my Special Representative and OAS Special Envoy recommended that phase III of the security plan should be implemented and, consequently, the International Civilian Mission personnel should be regrouped in the capital. In view of the deteriorating security situation in Haiti, the United Nations Security Coordinator agreed with that recommendation. The 11 teams which had been deployed outside Port-au-Prince made their way safely to the capital by 1700 hours on 15 October 1993.

3. On 15 October 1993, as proposed by the Security Management Team, my Special Representative and OAS Special Envoy recommended the implementation of phase IV, that is, the suspension of operations and evacuation of non-essential personnel. This recommendation was made in light of the latest developments in Haiti and the greatly raised level of threat to international personnel. It was approved by the United Nations Security Coordinator. As MICIVIH was no longer able to function, practically all of its personnel was considered non-essential. The office of my Special Representative was, therefore, reduced to a core group of essential personnel, mostly administrative, communications and security staff.

4. The members of MICIVIH were relocated to Santo Domingo on 15 and 16 October 1993. The first group of observers (125) was flown out of Port-au-Prince at 2100 hours on 15 October 1993 and the second group (55) on 16 October at 0800 hours.

5. On 12 November 1993, given the continued fluid situation in Haiti and the ongoing attempts to reinstate the process of implementation of the Governors Island Agreement, 1/ as well as the formal request made by President Aristide and his Government for the return of MICIVIH to Haiti, and, after consultation with the Organization of American States, the normal evacuation period of one month was prolonged until the end of November.

6. The President of the Security Council, in a statement made on 15 November 1993, encouraged me, "in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, to work for the earliest possible return of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH)". 2/

7. On 25 November, upon the recommendation of my Special Representative and OAS Special Envoy, I further extended the evacuation status of the MICIVIH personnel until 31 December 1993. I retained this option on the basis of two main considerations. On the one hand, the prevailing security and logistical situation in Haiti, which would make it impossible for the members of MICIVIH to perform their functions in Haiti at the present time; and, on the other hand, the wish expressed by the constitutional Government of Haiti, as well as by Member States, to see the Mission redeployed as soon as possible, which made it desirable that the members of MICIVIH should remain in the area while efforts were pursued to create the necessary conditions for their return to Haiti. The Organization of American States has concurred with my decision, which I intend to review in mid-December.

Notes

1/ A/47/975-S/26063, para. 5.

2/ S/26747, p. 2.